

Remarks:

Claims 1-23 are pending in this application.

The Examiner has objected to the disclosure because of a formality. An appropriate correction is submitted hereinbefore.

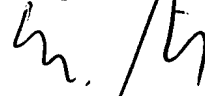
The Examiner has rejected claims 1-23 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Fan et al. ("Extensions to CR-LDP and RSVP-TB for Optical Path Set-up"), hereinafter referred to as Fan. The application respectfully disagrees.

The applicant submits the declaration of Guo-Qiang Wang, a named inventor, sworn December 29, 2003 under 37 CFR section 1.131 herewith.

In view of the submitted declaration, it is submitted that Fan is not a citable reference and, accordingly, it is submitted that the invention claimed in claims 1 through 23 is patentable over the art of record.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in the case.

Respectfully submitted,



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